

Weekly Column for September 8, 2006

Happy Friday to all!

This upcoming weekend is going to be a great time for all of the residents of Troy, and the thousands of visitors we will have.

The most exciting aspect of the weekend is of course the Uncle Sam celebration, highlighted by the Annual Uncle Sam Parade, which steps off 1 p.m., rain or shine, in Lansingburgh on Sunday.

The Grand Marshall this year is Troy's own P.J. Higgitt, who has served our country so many times. It is a great honor to have P.J. leading the parade. Local car dealer Jack Byrne is also being honored this year as the Uncle Sam Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to both of them.

Uncle Sam made his home in Troy, and while there are a great many efforts current underway to enhance the tributes to him in Troy, the Uncle Sam Parade is the most important event we have to honor our most famous resident. I encourage everyone to take a break from the hustle and bustle and head up to the parade on Sunday.

That being said, we cannot forget about the annual Shrine Festa Italiana, which opens for business today. Each year the Italian Community Center does a tremendous job with this event, and this year will be no different. If anything, it takes on added meaning because of the attempts to bring back Little Italy.

Both events offer a little bit for everyone, and I hope you can get out and enjoy the fun. Remember, the snow will be here soon, enjoy the beautiful weather while we have it.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy